

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1309632-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 7

Page 9 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;

Page 10 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;

Page 11 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;

Page 17 ~ Referral/Consult;

Page 18 ~ Referral/Consult;

Page 32 ~ Duplicate;

Page 33 ~ Duplicate;

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X Deleted Page(s) X
X No Duplication Fee X
X For this Page X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 09/17/2003

To: Criminal Investigative

Attn: Public Corruption Unit

From: Boston
C-1

Contact: SA

--	--

b6
b7C

Approved By:

--

Drafted By:

--

:mpb

Case ID #: 194B-BS-90361 (Closed) - 12

Title: Thomas M. Menino
Mayor, City of Boston et al
CSLPO
Boston

Synopsis: Public corruption case closed at Boston Division.

Enclosures: One (1) original and one (1) copy of LHM dated 9/17/03.

Details: Boston Division has closed the above titled public corruption case. Enclosed for PCU review is the closing LHM.

♦♦

--

closed
unf
(CS)

b6
b7C

Please close
C-5

I Draft to 1260 MPB 01.ec 9/17/03



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Boston, MA 02108
September 17, 2003

Thomas M. Menino
Mayor, City of Boston
Corruption of State and Local Public Officials

This case has been closed. The case was predicated upon information from the Boston Herald newspaper article which questioned the appropriateness of Mayor Menino's televised conversation with Sprint Telecommunications [redacted] [redacted]. The conversation was part of the televised program "24/7" which aired the evening of June 11, 2002. In the segment in question, the Mayor threatened the company with the loss of a lucrative city contract unless the firm donated \$25,000 to the mayoral youth fund. The Mayor is shown having a telephone conversation with [redacted] discussing the awarding of City of Boston contracts.

b6
b7C

During the course of their conversation, Menino threatened to give a Boston Housing Authority contract to AT&T, a Sprint competitor, because AT&T is sponsoring a summer youth program while Sprint has done nothing. [redacted] [redacted] is present in the segment and is also shown on the television broadcast making statements suggesting that Sprint will lose the contract if they fail to make the donation. [redacted] also assists the Mayor in pressuring Sprint to make the donation.

b6
b7C

On June 11, 2002, Assistant United States Attorney [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] United States Attorney's Office, District of Massachusetts, stated the case had prosecutive merit. The United States Attorneys Office advised that if the apparent facts were shown to be true to case would be prosecuted.

b6
b7C

Investigation was initiated, interview conducted, and documents obtained. Documents reviewed included City of Boston contracts; Sprint Telecommunications contract with the City of Boston and AT&T contracts with the City of Boston. Upon review of the evidence available, AUSA [redacted] declined prosecution of this matter. This matter will be reopened should sufficient information be developed that substantiates the allegations regarding Mayor Menino.

b6
b7C



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. 194B-BS-90361

One Center Plaza
Boston, MA 02108
617-742-5533
September 17, 2003

Attention: Michael J. Sullivan
United States Attorney
One Courthouse Way, Suite 9200
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Attention: [REDACTED]
Assistant United States Attorney

RE: Thomas M. Menino
Mayor, City of Boston
[REDACTED], City of Boston
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Sprint
Telecommunications (Victim)
CSLPO

b6
b7C

Dear Sir:

[REDACTED] The purpose of this letter is to confirm AUSA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] decision to decline prosecution of an investigation
concerning the allegation that captioned Mayor Menino and [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] were responsible for the attempted
corruption of captioned victim, [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

AUSA [REDACTED] was advised of the following information
regarding the above referenced investigation by Special Agent
[REDACTED] on June 11, 2002. The case was predicated upon a
Boston Herald newspaper article which questioned the
appropriateness of Mayor Menino's televised conversation with
Sprint Telecommunications [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] The
conversation was part of the television program "24/7" which was
aired the evening of June 11, 2002. In the segment in question,
the Mayor threatened the company with the loss of a lucrative
city contract unless the firm donated \$25,000 to the mayoral
youth fund. The Mayor is shown having a telephone conversation
with [REDACTED] discussing the awarding of City of Boston contracts.

b6
b7C

1-U.S. Attorney's Office
1-Boston 194B-BS-90361

194B-BS-90361-11

During the course of their conversation Menino threatened to give a Boston Housing Authority contract to AT&T, a Sprint competitor, because AT&T is sponsoring a summer youth program while Sprint has done nothing. [redacted] is present in the segment and is also shown on the television broadcast making statements suggesting that Sprint will lose the contract if they fail to make the donation. [redacted] also assists the Mayor in pressuring Sprint to make the donation.

b6
b7C

On June 11, 2002, Assistant United States Attorney [redacted] United States Attorney's Office, District of Massachusetts, stated the case has prosecutive merit. The United States Attorney's Office advised that if the apparent facts were shown to be true the case would be prosecuted.

b6
b7C

Investigation was initiated, interviews conducted and documents obtained and reviewed. Upon review of the evidence available AUSA [redacted] declined prosecution of this matter.

b6
b7C

Accordingly, no further investigation will be conducted by the FBI.

Sincerely,

KENNETH W. KAISER
Special Agent in Charge

By:

[redacted]
Supervisory Special Agent

b6
b7C

LAW OFFICES

FAX COVER SHEET

FAX NUMBER TRANSMITTED TO:

To: [redacted] Special Agent
Of: Federal Bureau of Investigation
From: [redacted]
Client/Matter: Interview of [redacted]

b6
b7C

194B-B5-90361 #4

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Law Offices

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

July 10, 2002

VIA FACSIMILE AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

Special Agent, [REDACTED]
Federal Bureau of Investigation
One Center Plaza
Suite 600
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

b6
b7C

Re: Interview of [REDACTED]

b6
b7C
b7D

Dear [REDACTED]

Please be advised that I represent [REDACTED] insofar as your interest is in speaking with him. I am prepared to meet with you and submit to an interview under appropriate conditions as soon as possible. Pursuant to our conversation, this interview will take place at [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Thank you for your cooperation and professionalism.

Vernon

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

DJO'C:korn

cc:

[REDACTED] AUSA
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

- 1 -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1,2,3

Date of transcription 07/24/2002

On [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] Social Security Account Number [redacted] Date of Birth [redacted]
[redacted] interviewed at the law office of [redacted] was [redacted]
[redacted] by Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) [redacted]. This interview was conducted
signed [redacted] between the [redacted] and [redacted] in a
[redacted] provided the following information:

b6
b7C
b7D

[redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

[redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

[redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

Investigation on [redacted] at [redacted] *St. Draft 2055m 081.302*
File # 194B-BS-90361 -9
by SA [redacted] /jmo Date dictated 07/23/02

b7D

b6
b7C



FBI FACSIMILE

COVER SHEET

PRECEDENCE

- ☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☒ Routine

CLASSIFICATION

- ☐ Top Secret
☐ Secret
☐ Confidential
☐ Sensitive
☒ Unclassified

Time Transmitted: 9:35
Sender's Initials: CPW
Number of Pages: 15
(including cover sheet)

To: BOSTON

Date: 9-10-02

Name of Office

Facsimile Number:

Attn:

SA

b6
b7C

14B 194B-BS-90361-10

CPW
9/20/02



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D. C. 20535-0001

September 12, 2002

THOMAS MICHAEL MENINO

Captioned individual, who you advised was born December 27, 1942, in Boston, Massachusetts, and holds SSAN: 023-32-0267, is the subject of an ongoing Corruption of State and Local Public Official investigation initiated in June 2002 by the FBI. Attached is a FBI memorandum and four newspaper articles which contains the results of this investigation.

FBI files, records of the Criminal Justice Information Services Division, and appropriate computer data bases contain no additional pertinent information identifiable with captioned individual based upon background information furnished in connection with this name check request.

This communication has been cleared by the Deputy Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice.

Enclosures (5)



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Boston, MA 02108
June 11, 2002

Thomas M. Menino,
Mayor, City of Boston;

[redacted]
[redacted] City of Boston;
[redacted]

Sprint Telecommunications (Victim);
Sprint Telecommunications (Victim);
Corruption of State and Local Public Officials;
OO:BS

b6
b7C

This case was predicated on a June 11, 2002 Boston Herald newspaper article which questioned the appropriateness of Mayor Thomas Menino's televised conversation with Sprint Telecommunications' [redacted]. The conversation is part of the television program "24/7" which is scheduled to air the evening of June 11, 2002. In one segment of the program, the Mayor threatens the company with the loss of a lucrative city contract unless the firm donates \$ 25,000.00 to the mayoral youth fund. The Mayor is shown having a telephone conversation with [redacted] discussing the awarding of City of Boston contracts. During the course of their conversation, Menino threatens to give a Boston Housing Authority contract to AT & T, a Sprint competitor, because AT & T is sponsoring a summer youth program while Sprint has done nothing. [redacted] the [redacted] is also shown on the television broadcast making statements suggesting that Sprint will lose the contract if they fail to make the donation. [redacted] also assists the Mayor in pressuring Sprint to make the donation.

b6
b7C

Appropriate investigation will be conducted. The investigation will require the obtaining of an unedited version of the television program "24/7". Additionally, the Boston Division intends to conduct interviews and conduct the appropriate investigation.

On June 11, 2002, Assistant United States Attorney [redacted] United States Attorney's Office, District of Massachusetts, stated that the case has prosecutive merit. The United States Attorney's Office stated that if the apparent facts are shown to be true the case will be prosecuted.

b6
b7C

The following biographical information is provided for Menino.

Name: Thomas M. Menino
Address: 102 Chesterfield Street
Boston, Massachusetts

Date of Birth: 12/27/42
Social Security Number: 023-32-0267

lead group probe of 'corruption'

By Anthony Flint
GLOBE STAFF

Community activists called for a federal investigation yesterday of "corruption" in the administration of Mayor Thomas M. Menino after learning of campaign contributions by individuals linked to a developer with a major project before city regulators.

The contributions were made last year in a process known as "bundling" by several individuals associated with Millennium Partners of New York, which is building a multi-use complex in Chinatown and proposing a 53-story tower and complex over the Massachusetts Turnpike at Massachusetts Avenue.

About \$10,000 in contributions flowed into Menino's campaign chest while Millennium had testimony before the city, according to a review of campaign records published yesterday in The Boston Herald. The Fenway Action Coalition, a group of residents opposed to the Millennium project over the turnpike and plans for a new Fenway Park as well, called on US Attorney Donald Stern to open an investigation.

"The chaotic transformation of Boston into a hodge-podge of massive structures, malls, and hotels is determined entirely on the basis of influence peddling," said Robert Folsom, a member of the group.

"It's all a matter of hiring Menino pals as consultants and plunking down bribes through disordered channels," said Peter Catalano, another member, who said Menino was engaging in "honest graft" and "crony capitalism."

Menino declined to be interviewed. But Peter Welch, a top aide to Menino, dismissed the Fenway Action Coalition by saying, "There are more pages in their press release than people in their group."

Asked whether Menino could be a credible defender of resi-

The contributions were made in a process known as "bundling" by individuals associated with Millennium Partners of New York.

campaign contributions and still put developers through a rigorous process? Of course. We've done it in every project in this city. The mayor doesn't interfere in the process."

Menino is on record as being opposed to the 53-story tower over the turnpike as currently proposed, Welch said.

Menino and his associates have ties to Millennium and other major developers, however. Connie Pastelnik, wife of Menino's top political adviser, Edward Messer, has been hired as a strategist for Millennium. Robert F. Walsh, the mayor's close friend and former director of the Boston Redevelopment Authority, is in charge of the new Red Sox stadium project and has hired recently departed Menino aide Joseph Fisher.

Catalano said the combination of the campaign contributions and the "revolving door" of Menino associates working for developers warranted scrutiny by outside investigators.

With billions in real estate deals in the pipeline for Boston, Menino has been criticized by political opponents for being too pro-development. In recent weeks, however, he has sought to portray himself as on the side of worried residents, opposing "air rights" development over the

(indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Date: 4/27/99
Edition: Boston Globe

Title: Donations to Menino group to urge probe of 'corruption'

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: BS

Indexing:



SEP-06-2002 10:52

FBI BOSTON

b6
b7c

P.02/10

194-0 - 16

NR 1 A

XK

Fraud charges no obstacle

By JONATHAN WELLS
MAGGIE WELLS
and JACK MEYERS

Vincent Marino's run of success as a preferred developer of suburban city land began while he was under the cloud of a federal indictment charging him with fraud in connection with a real estate project.

In the early 1970s, Marino's financial and legal prospects plummeted when his poor and controversial development project — the 104-unit Dale Village complex occupied in Rosindale — nearly collapsed under the weight of a crisis of mortgage foreclosures.

To make matters worse, in 1984, Marino and five others involved in the Dale Village project, were indicted on federal conspiracy and mail fraud charges.

The U.S. Attorney's Office accused Marino and the other defendants of defrauding Citicorp Mortgage Inc. of Missouri by disguising condominium buyers' second mortgages as down payments so they could qualify for loans.

The "fictitious" second mortgages were provided by two Marino companies, Acme Realty Trust and Acme Finance Corp., and allowed the buyers "to qualify for mortgages they otherwise would have been unable to obtain from the lender," the indictment charged.

Several City Hall sources said that Mayor Thomas M. Menino, when he was a city councilor, was instrumental in getting government approvals for Marino's Dale Village project. "Menino bent over backwards to get Marino the permits," said one source.

The Dale Village fraud case went to trial in January 1994, but ended abruptly on the third day of testimony when U.S. District Court Judge Joseph L. Tauro granted motions of acquittal for Marino and the other remaining defendants.

One juror recalled that the government's prosecutor, Nadine Pellegrini, appeared stunned when Tauro threw out the case without trial. Through a spokeswoman for the U.S. Attorney's Office, Pellegrini refused to discuss the 5-year-old case.

While Marino was awaiting trial in the fall of 1995, one of his partners, Michael F. Maxley, was selected by the Menino administration to receive the first 10 of the 17



PHOTO BY JONATHAN WELLS
Vincent Marino walked away from the camera in Rosindale. Sources say Mayor Thomas M. Menino helped Marino obtain permits for his Dale Village complex, later at the center of a fraud indictment.

parcels of city land Marino and his associates would get over the next six years.

In May 1996, a few months after Marino was acquitted of mortgage fraud, the city sold the 10 parcels of land in Rosindale to Maxley for \$10,000. Two months later, Maxley sold the land for less than \$100 to a trust in the name of Marino's

wife, Elizabeth.

Over the next year, Marino built seven houses on the land which he sold for a total of more than \$11 million. His estimated profit on the deal exceeded \$300,000, according to documents reviewed by the Herald.

After that, Marino continued to be selected by the city to develop

its surplus lots and piled up profits of approximately \$15 million on the deals, records show.

The various trusts and limited partnerships Marino used to develop his city lots were all run out of the same second-floor office over his bar, the Rosindale Pub, on Washington Street in Rosindale.

That was also the place men of Marino's Acme Trust, which failed on the mortgages that were the center of the 1994 indictment.

Linda Mafia, the now Acme Realty Trust, was later acquired with Marino's Dale Village case. Marino kept Marino employed as a consultant until Marino's campaign and the same street as the Hyde Park.

Another person indicted Marino in 1994 was Charles Robbins, a real estate broker who at the time was involved in sales of Dale Village.

Robbins, 42, of Roxbury, criminal record and has involved with organized crime, according to records in federal court, involved with others in drug charges who were in police broke up an extortion and gambling ring in Roxbury's suburbs.

The police sweep, soon by Norfolk County District Attorney William Keating, \$400,000 in cash and more pounds of marijuana, as well as quantities of wine, steroids and ecstasy.

Robbins' name came up at times in April, as the federal judge, trial of former Boston police officer Michael Fennell.

William St. Croix, a brother and the son of William St. Croix, a gang boss, Stephen "The Boss" Flannery, testified against him with Robbins, mid-1990s and described him as a "narc" and a "mobster".

He said specifically he to be a member of the "Wink Gang," St. Croix said of him. According to St. Croix, Robbins paid him a total of \$100,000 for two criminal cases against him.

St. Croix said he did not know.

Later, when Robbins was charged that he was police surveillance, St. Croix tried to check his system hidden listening devices.

St. Croix played camera in a crowd Robbins' house "sweep" with a metal detector. When he showed Robbins "bust" he had found, he paid St. Croix \$10,000 for the

TOTAL P. 10

Boston Herald 6/27/02
Pg 4

6/26/02

LOTS of PROFIT

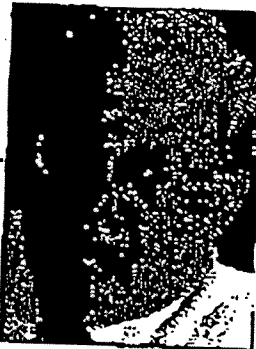
Mayor's pal lands \$\$ in city property deals

By JACK MEYERS, JONATHAN WELLS
and MAGGIE MULVHILL

Part of two parts

A longtime confidant and fund-raiser of Mayor Thomas M. Menino has reaped millions of dollars in profit on a series of questionable deals involving vacant city-owned lots.

Over the past six years, that friend, Vincent C. Marino, has acquired 17 parcels of land put up for sale by the city, built six



THOMAS M. MENINO

Turn to Page 18

Vincent C. Marino arrives at one of the bars he owns — the Roslindale Pub on Washington Street in Roslindale.

STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN WISE/EVERETT

Boston Herald

6/26/02

pg 1

Longtime pal nets \$2.5M developing vacant lots

(From Page 1)

residential projects and received a profit estimated at \$2.5 million.

The city's own records show that administration officials deal the city to real properties to the mayor's pal. In two instances, Marino was selected by the city even though each of the other bidders offered more money for the land.

In another case, the Marino administration wrote the rules to explicitly favor a business partner of Marino who won the bidding, purchased the city land for \$90,000 and then promptly transferred it to Marino's wife for less than \$300.

Since Marino became mayor in 1983, Marino "gets whatever he wants" from City Hall, said a former Marino administration insider, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Members of Marino's inner circle at City Hall have known for years of the mayor's close relationship with Marino, which dates back three decades. Marino has been both a mentor and a producer for Marino's friends. For years, the two men took daily morning walks together.

"You don't find two people who are closer," said one source who has known both men over the years.

Marino, 46, of Dedham has long had a reputation in some circles as a man standing the line between the legitimate business world and the underworld.

And that reputation is well-founded, a Herald investigation has found. Since the 1960s, Marino has been associated with — and has come to business with — loan sharks, bookmakers and organized crime figures, according to law enforcement officials, investigative reports and court records.

Marino himself was identified by organized crime investigators to the FBI as a member of one of Boston's most notorious criminal organizations.

As recently as two years ago, state and federal investigators indicted scores of Marino's closest associates in an illegal gambling probe that continues today.

While Marino's ties to organized crime figures have remained largely unknown for the last 15 years, so has his long-standing family association to Marino.

Marino's family has been



VALUED FRIENDSHIP: Deafening developer Vincent Marino, left, and Mayor Thomas M. Marino, right, have been friends since the 1970s. Marino has made millions buying and developing vacant city lots over the past six years. Developers competing with Marino to acquire city property, question the fairness of the bid process.

Buyer beware when Marino loses bid

Vincent C. Marino has usually gotten what he wants at City Hall, except on one particular day last year when the city rejected a bundle of low-bid bids for 16 city lots submitted by Marino and his partner. In each case, the offer submitted to the Department of Neighborhood Development by Marino and his partner, David Barker, were far below the city's minimum bid price.

Records available to 11 of those bids show that Marino and Barker offered a total of only \$94,000 for land with minimum bid prices totaling \$65,400.

All of the bids were submitted on the same day in January 2001 and rejected by the city on the same

day those under bid.

According to city records, however, none of the other bidders has been able to buy those lots either. City officials said sales are pending on two of the 16 lots, but none of them had actually been sold as of last week.

The case of 44-55 North Road in Dorchester is typical. Barker offered only \$5,000 for land which had a minimum price of \$22,250. The winning bidder offered the city's asking price and was selected to develop the lot but more than a year later the lot has not been sold. City officials said the designated buyer did not meet their design standards.

himself in Boston's working-class neighborhood with his family in the 1960s. He became a boxer, a professional boxer, and won a world championship and went on to a successful career as a professional fighter.

After he retired from the ring, he established a boxing gym as a boxer and restaurateur. He purchased the Rollinsdale Park on Washington Street in 1967 and later moved and sold the property.

Now, Marino enjoys the tranquility of a wealthy man. He gave up his boxing career in the early 1970s to move into a secluded, 18-hole golf course in Dorchester with well over \$1 million.

Marino's holdings currently include more than \$1 million worth of real estate in Massachusetts and Florida and three homes — the Rollinsdale Park and Parkway Gardens in Rollinsdale and the Charleston in

Quebec. Several sources said it was common for Marino to personally go on the Department of Neighborhood Development to help Marino obtain permits and approvals.

"If it was a person that Marino was working on, it would be through whatever way possible," said one former DND official.

Marino, it was, has been an avid fundraiser for Marino — a role he

enjoyed since Marino's election over the years. He serves as a director on the Executive Board of the City's Neighborhood Development program, a former Marino project aimed at rebuilding neighborhood business districts.

In a telephone interview yesterday, the mayor acknowledged that Marino and Marino have been friends for 25 years, and that Marino resided in his wife.

Marino denied, however, that their long friendship has helped Marino land a lot of work with the city.

"I don't think it has at all," the mayor said. "I've never been involved with the city agencies or I've never asked anybody to do anything for me. I've been a process and he's been able to do with that process."

Marino said he is unaware of any ties Marino has had to organize city.

Marino declined to be interviewed in written responses. He could question his lawyer, John Wall, and Marino said that Marino has been a friend for 25 years and is married to Marino's wife. The Wall said Marino has not benefited from his friendship with the mayor.

"Vincent Marino does not believe that he is a lobbyist with Tom Marino. He has helped to acquire city property for development," Wall wrote. "The contrary, he believes the city's interests receive other scrutiny from the Department of Neighborhood Development and the Department of Neighborhood Development. That they are otherwise receive precisely because he has been a friend and supporter of Tom Marino."

Wall refused to say how many money Marino has made on deals with the city. "When money is made on the development of property, Vincent Marino believes to be no one's business except his and the city's," Wall wrote.

Christine Oakes Richey, assistant chief and the head of a Department of Neighborhood Development, said the mayor never interfered in the process.

"I took this job in January 1999," Richey said. "In the last three months, almost four years I've worked for the mayor, and none has (if anyone) asked me to do anything other than follow Chapter 23 (state bidding laws)," she said.

Between May 1996 and the spring, Marino developed 10 housing units on the 17 lots he bought from the city. Those lots had been sold for \$33 million.

Based on project, Marino and his partner submitted to the Department of Neighborhood Development building permit applications to build with 150,000 square-foot units currently used

Boston Herald

6/26/02

pg 2

SEP-06-2002 10:53 FBI BOSTON

Boston Herald 6/26/02
pg 3

Boston Herald 6/26/02
pg 4

198-1

SPECIAL REPORT

Menino's pal has longtime mob ties

By JONATHAN WELLS,
MAGGIE MULVIHILL
and JACK MEYERS

■ Second of two parts



MARINO

Vincent C. Marino, a confidant of Mayor Thomas V. Menino who has made millions of dollars on a series of land deals with the city, has a criminal record and ties to organized crime figures that span 35 years.

Marino, 55, appears at first blush to be no more than a popular former prizefighter

Turn to Page 32

Mayor's pal has mobster ties back to 1960s

From Page 1

whose many years as a restaurateur and developer in the southern neighborhoods of the city have earned him the unofficial title of "mayor of Roslindale."

But closer scrutiny of Marino's record over the last four decades reveals evidence of illegal activities and criminal associations that raise questions about his status as a close friend and fund-raiser to the mayor.

A Herald investigation found that Marino's ties to organized crime figures started with a loan-sharking conviction in the 1960s and continues today as state and federal authorities are targeting some of Marino's longtime associates in an ongoing investigation.

The most revealing evidence of Marino's place in Boston's criminal underworld was found in confidential documents drafted in 1975 by a special organized crime task force that identified Marino as an operative in the notorious Winter Hill Gang.

Marino served directly under the gang's boss at the time, Moxie Winter, according to the documents. Winter, a major crime boss until his imprisonment in 1979, was identified by investigators as "organized crime control" and Marino as "sub-control."

Marino and his Winter Hill crew operated out of his bar, Casa Beirut, on Washington Street in Roslindale, the documents state. The second-floor office above that bar, which is now called the Roslindale Pub, still serves as Marino's headquarters.

The Herald reported yesterday that Marino, who is a relative of the mayor's wife, has been remarkably successful in acquiring city-owned land since Marino became mayor in 1993.

Records show that in the last six years, Marino's purchase and redevelopment of 17 city-owned residential lots netted him and his partners an estimated \$2.5 million in profits.

And City Hall insiders said he

They claimed the mayor's friend has received special treatment from city development agencies for years, dating back to Marino's 10-year stint as a district city councilor before he became mayor.

Marino and Marino both acknowledged this work that they have had a long and close friendship, but denied it has played a role in Marino's string of profitable deals with City Hall.

Ongoing probe

In April 2001, when state police investigators busted up a major gambling ring operating in Boston's southern neighborhoods, south suburbs and on Cape Cod, they arrested three of Marino's closest associates.

According to the Norfolk County District Attorney's Office, the "person in charge" of the gambling network was Donald A. "Duke" Wells, 67, of Plymouth and Boynton Beach, Fla.

Willis has been identified by law enforcement as a major bookmaker since at least 1978 and his criminal record dates back to 1959, according to court records.

And Willis has been closely associated with Marino in the past, records show. The two men have been partners in at least three companies — Boston's Best Auto Rental, Boston's Best Auto Wholesale and Boston's Best Auto Center — which all had addresses on property owned by Marino in Hyde Park.

When state police investigators searched Willis' home in Plymouth, among the 30 items seized was a typed letter by Vincent Marino, Boston Best Auto Center Inc., according to the search warrant return.

Reached by telephone at his Florida home, Willis declined comment on the charges pending against him and his relationship with Marino.

Another longtime associate of Marino, Joseph J. "The Captain" Colucci, was charged in

Is
Let Bat
Beauty
Bathro
Special
✓ One Day I
✓ Molded Cu
✓ Exclusive C
✓ Tub to Sho
✓ Shower Gls
DATE



CONNECTED: Joseph Colucci, left, and Richard J. Marino, right, were both involved in a gambling ring allegedly run by Vincent Marino associate Donald A. "Duke" Willis, according to police documents. Richard Marino, Vincent Marino's brother, was also identified in government documents as a Winter Hill Gang operative.

with Marino in 1966 of loan-sharking and on his own for illegal gambling twice in the 1970s, pleaded guilty in May 2000 to gambling charges stemming from his involvement in the ring allegedly run by Willis.

On March 31, 2000, one day before the state police raided his gaming office in West Roxbury and his home in Roslindale, Colucci was overheard on a police wiretap warning another buckle that there was "heat up the game," a reference to intense law enforcement activity, according to court papers.

Colucci was sentenced to one year of unsupervised probation and fined \$320,000.

Meanwhile, Colucci was identified as a Winter Hill Gang operative in the same 1975 organized crime documents which named Marino. Colucci was listed as an underling of Mickey Griffin, who was another organized crime "sub-control" reporting directly to

were generated by the Suffolk County Investigation and Prosecution Project (SCIPP), a federally funded task force set up in the 1970s to root out organized crime and public corruption.

"Joe Colucci is a known entity in the law enforcement community as a gaming guy," said one former detective who specialized in organized crime in the 1980s and 1990s.

Marino and Colucci also have been business partners. In 1976 they started a franchise business called Natural Eats, which started with one store in Kenmore Square and eventually expanded into other states.

Then, in 1979, Marino financed Colucci's attempted acquisition of a Park Square bar, which was eventually blocked by the Boston Licensing Board because of Colucci's criminal record.

Despite that record, Colucci has fared well of late before city and state licensing agencies. He was

Marino, also was involved in the Willis gambling ring, according to a state police affidavit, but he was not charged.

A government wiretap on the telephone of the ring's day-to-day manager, George Chute, picked up a voice message on March 10, 2000, in which Chute told one of his underlings that he had "paperwork" from Richie Marino. Investigators explained that "paperwork" was a term used by members of the organization for betting records.

Richard Marino, 40, who was frequently seen by the Herald at his brother's Roslindale Pub during the last year, also was identified in SCIPP documents in 1975 as an operative in the Winter Hill Gang. Richard Marino and Colucci are currently next-door neighbors in Roslindale.

Richard Marino had at least one business with his brother, Vincent, in Florida called Boston's Best

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 08/30/2002

To: FBIHQ

Attn: Records Management
RRDS/NNCPU/Rm 4973

From: Boston
C-1

Contact: SA [REDACTED]

Approved By: [REDACTED] *[Signature]*

Drafted By: [REDACTED] *[Signature]*

Case ID #: 194B-BS-90361 (Pending)

Title: THOMAS MICHAEL MENINO
WHITE HOUSE (WH)
NAME CHECK REQUEST

Enclosure(s): Enclosed for FBI-HQ is an original and one copy of an LHM.

Synopsis: The Boston Division responds to Bureau EC dated 8/12/02.

Details: The Boston Division contacted AUSA [REDACTED] Boston, Mass. who recommends that the contents of the opening LHM is suitable for dissemination. Any mention of FGJ material has been removed.

♦♦

UPLOADED

WITH/TEXT ☒
WITHOUT/TEXT ☐
BY *uif*
DATE 9/9/02

194B-BS-90361-7
I Draft 242MPB01.ec

b6
b7C

b6
b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: DEADLINE 08/20/2002

Date: 08/12/2002

✓ To: Boston

Attn: Squad C1

From: Records Management
RRDS/NNCPU/Rm 4973

Contact: [redacted]

Approved By: [redacted]

Drafted By: [redacted]

Case ID #: 194B-BS-90361-5

Title: THOMAS MICHAEL MENINO
WHITE HOUSE (WH)
NAME CHECK REQUEST

Synopsis: The Bureau is in receipt of a name check request from the WH concerning Thomas Michael Menino, born December 27, 1942, in Boston, Massachusetts, SSAN: 023-32-0267, and employed with the City of Boston. Menino is being considered for the Homeland Security Advisory Council. **Per instructions from the Attorney General's Office, for the President, these checks are to be handled as soon as received.**

Administrative: We are authorized to conduct name checks for federal executive branch [redacted] agencies under MAOP, Part 2, Section 9, 9-2.4.

Details: Boston is directed to its case 194B-BS-90361 where Menino appears to be one of the subjects. As this investigation is pending, contact the U.S. Attorney for dissemination guidance from a prosecutive standpoint concerning Menino. Boston is requested to review its file and submit an EC and LHM suitable for dissemination to the WH, setting forth pertinent details of the investigation that can be disseminated and the USA's opinion, to the attention of [redacted] [redacted] National Name Check Program Unit, Room 4973, FBIHQ. (Do not include Grand Jury 6(e) material or Bureau techniques in the LHM.)

b6
b7C

b6
b7C

Clear lead
[Signature]
8/12/02

To: Boston From. Records Management
Re: 194B-BS-90361, 08/12/2002

LEAD(s) :

Set Lead 1:

BOSTON

AT BOSTON, MA

Boston is requested to review its file, contact the USA, and submit an EC and LHM suitable for dissemination to the WH, by August 20, 2002. The LHM should include identifying data (DPOB, SSAN, and ect.) regarding Menino. **YOU ARE REMINDED WE ARE UNDER A FIVE-DAY DEADLINE.**

◆◆

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 06/17/2002

To: BOSTON

Attn: SAC

From: BOSTON

C-1

Contact: SA [REDACTED]

Approved By: [REDACTED]

Drafted By: [REDACTED]

mpb

Case ID #: 194B-BS-90361 (Pending) - 3

Title: Thomas M. Menino
Mayor, City of Boston

[REDACTED] City of Boston;
[REDACTED] Sprint
Telecommunications (Victim);
Sprint Telecommunications (Victim);
CSLPO

Synopsis: Request opening of FGJ subfile and NC subfile.

Details: Writer request the opening of a Federal Grand Jury subfile and also a media subfile for captioned matter.

♦♦

Open
194B BS 90361
SUB 6J
+ SUB itc
[Signature]

I: Drafts: 168mpb01.ec

b6
b7C

b6
b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 07/02/2002

To: BOSTON

Attn: SAC

From: BOSTON

C-1

Contact: SA [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

Approved By: [REDACTED]

Drafted By: MM [REDACTED]

Case ID #: 194B-BS-90361 (Pending) - 2

Title: Thomas M. Menino,
Mayor, City of Boston;

b6
b7C

[REDACTED] City of Boston;
[REDACTED] Sprint
[REDACTED] Telecommunications (Victim);
CSLPO
OO: BS

Synopsis: Request opening of sub files.

Details: It is requested that a Federal Grand Jury subfile (FGJ) and a newspaper clipping subfile (NC) be opened in captioned matter.

♦♦

MPK
I: Draft to 183MPB 01.2C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 06/11/2002

To: FBI-HQ

Attn: PCU-CID

From: Boston
C-1

Contact: SA [REDACTED]

Approved By: [REDACTED]

Drafted By: [REDACTED]

pac

Case ID #: 194B-BS-70361 (Pending) — 1

Title: Thomas M. Menino,
Mayor, City of Boston;

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] City of Boston;
[REDACTED] Sprint
Telecommunications (Victim);
Sprint Telecommunications (Victim);
Corruption of State and Local Public Officials;
OO:BS

Enclosure(s): Enclosed for FBI-HQ is original and one copy of LHM.

Synopsis: New public corruption case opened in Boston Division.

Details: The writer requests that new public corruption case be opened in Boston Division. Enclosed is LHM for review.

♦♦

opened for review
SA
05A
06/11/02
[Signature]

b6
b7C

b6
b7C

b6
b7C

162-bac04ec



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Boston, MA 02108
June 11, 2002

Thomas M. Menino,
Mayor, City of Boston;

[redacted]
[redacted] City of Boston;

Sprint Telecommunications (Victim);
Sprint Telecommunications (Victim);
Corruption of State and Local Public Officials;
OO:BS

⑧ pas b6
b7C

This case was predicated on a June 11, 2002 Boston Herald newspaper article which questioned the appropriateness of Mayor Thomas Menino's televised conversation with Sprint Telecommunications' [redacted]. The conversation is part of the television program "24/7" which is scheduled to air the evening of June 11, 2002. In one segment of the program, the Mayor threatens the company with the loss of a lucrative city contract unless the firm donates \$ 25,000.00 to the mayoral youth fund. The Mayor is shown having a telephone conversation with [redacted] discussing the awarding of City of Boston contracts. During the course of their conversation, Menino threatens to give a Boston Housing Authority contract to AT & T, a Sprint competitor, because AT & T is sponsoring a summer youth program while Sprint has done nothing. [redacted] the [redacted] is also shown on the television broadcast making statements suggesting that Sprint will lose the contract if they fail to make the donation. [redacted] also assists the Mayor in pressuring Sprint to make the donation.

b6
b7C

Appropriate investigation will be conducted. The investigation will require the obtaining of an unedited version of the television program "24/7". Additionally, the Boston Division intends to conduct interviews and obtain grand jury testimony of appropriate witnesses. Moreover, the financial records of Sprint as well as the charity will be subpoenaed.

On June 11, 2002, Assistant United States Attorney [redacted] United States Attorney's Office, District of Massachusetts, stated that the case has prosecutive merit. The United States Attorney's Office stated that if the apparent facts are shown to be true the case will be prosecuted.

b6
b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 06/11/2002

To: FBI-HQ

Attn: PCU-CID

From: Boston

C-1

Contact: SA [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

Approved By: [REDACTED]

Drafted By: [REDACTED]

:pacy *[signature]*

Case ID #: 194B-BS-NEW (Pending)

Title: Thomas M. Menino,
Mayor, City of Boston;

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] City of Boston;
[REDACTED] Sprint
Telecommunications (Victim);
Sprint Telecommunications (Victim);
Corruption of State and Local Public Officials;
OO:BS

b6
b7C

Enclosure(s): Enclosed for FBI-HQ is original and one copy of LHM.

Synopsis: New public corruption case opened in Boston Division.

Details: The writer requests that new public corruption case be opened in Boston Division. Enclosed is LHM for review.

♦♦